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FM AMCONSUL KRAKOW

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2675

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KRAKOW WARSAW 0998

EO 12065: GDS 12/17/81 (BASTIANI, CARL A.) OR-M

TAGS: PINT PL

SUBJ: THE VIOLENCE IN NOWA HUTA, DECEMBER 16-17, 1981

(C - ENTIRE TEXT).

THE FOLLOWING REPORT WAS COMPILED DECEMBER 17 BY THE KRAKOW
CONSULATE AND COVERS THE VIOLENCE WHICH OCCURRED DECEMBER 16 AND
17 AT THE NOWA HUTA STEEL MILL, POLAND'S LARGEST STEEL COMPLEX
WHICH IS LOCATED OUTSIDE KRAKOW AS WELL AS AT NOWA HUTA'S MAIN
SQUARE:

1150 HOURS

A POLISH UNIVERSITY STUDENT CAME INTO THE CONSULATE TO DESCRIBE
WHAT HAPPENED AT THE NOWA HUTA STEEL WORKS. HIS EYEWITNESS REPT
CONFIRMS, IN MANY DETAILS, OTHER INDEPENDENT EYEWITNESSES. HIS
STORY WAS MOST VIVID BECAUSE HE HAD PARTICIPATED IN ALL THE
EVENTS DESCRIBED, HAVING SLIPPED OUT OF THE STEEL WORKS AT 0300
HOURS DEC 17. HIS STORY: THE SPECIAL POLICE/ARMY UNITS (ZOMO)
CRASHED THROUGH THE MAIN GATES OF THE STEEL MILL SHORTLY AFTER
0130 HOURS YESTERDAY, DECEMBER 16. THE ZOMO USED SEVERAL
TANKS TO BREAK DOWN THE MAIN GATE. THE ZOMO EJECTED WORKERS FROM
VARIOUS BUILDINGS AT THE INSTALLATION AND CONFRONTED THE BULK OF

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THE STRIKERS IN THE MAIN HALL OF THE WORKS. THE WORKERS, JOINED BY STUDENTS FROM KRAKOW'S MINING AND METALLURGY ACADEMY AS WELL AS THE KRAKOW POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, JEERED THE SOLDIERS PARTICIPATING AND YELLED "ARE YOU WITH US OR AGAINST US?" THE WORKERS WERE ORDERED TO RETURN TO WORK, BUT THEY REFUSED AND RESPONDED THAT MARSHALL LAW WAS ILLEGAL. THE WORKERS ALSO SANG RELIGIOUS HYMNS AND PATRIOTIC SONGS. THE ZOMO WITHDREW AND RETURNED AT 0600 HOURS AND BEGAN TO EJECT THE WORKERS AND STUDENTS WHO OFFERED NO RESISTANCE. THE ZOMO SINGLED OUT STUDENTS FOR BEATINGS, SO THE STUDENTS ATTEMPTED TO FLEE THROUGH A TUNNEL TO THE MAIN ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING (FROM THE MAIN HALL). STUDENTS AND WORKERS TOOK REFUGE IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING BUT BEGAN TO FILTER BACK TO THE MAIN HALL THROUGHOUT THE MORNING. THE STUDENT HIMSELF WAS HELPED TO ESCAPE OVER THE WORKS' BACK FENCE AT 0700 HOURS, BUT RETURNED LATER WITH OTHER STUDENTS. WHEN HE LEFT THE WORKS AT 0300 HOURS TODAY, THE ZOMO HAD STILL NOT TAKEN OVER THE SPRAWLING STEEL WORKS COMPLEX. HE CONFIRMED THAT NOWA HUTA STRIKE LEADER MIECZYSLAW GIL HAD ESCAPED ARREST AND WAS NOW IN HIDING AND REORGANIZING THE STEELWORKERS.

1400 HOURS

AN AMERICAN MEDICAL STUDENT JUST RETURNED TO THE CONSULATE FROM THE ENTRANCE OF THE STEEL WORKS. HE SAID HE SAW A PRIEST INSIDE THE MAIN GATE GIVING MASS, WITH SINGING OF RELIGIOUS AND PATRIOTIC SONGS. HE AND OTHER ONLOOKERS WERE CHASED AWAY FROM THE SCENE BY ZOMO POLICE. HE RAN TOWARD A LINE OF BUSES WHICH WERE THOUGHT TO BE STATIONED THERE TO TAKE AWAY PROTESTERS.

1530

AN AMERICAN MEDICAL STUDENT AND HER BOYFRIEND JUST RETURNED FROM NOWA HUTA'S PLAC CENTRALNY (MAIN SQUARE) WHICH IS DOMINATED BY A STATUE OF LENIN. THEY WERE AT THE PLAC AT 1200 HOURS TO OBSERVE THE SCHEDULED MARCH OF PROTESTERS ON THE STEEL WORKS. A CROWD OF TWO TO THREE HUNDRED PERSONS HAD GATHERED AT THE PLAC AND STARTED MARCHING FROM THERE TOWARD THE STEEL WORKS. THE CROWD'S PATCH WAS BLOCKED BY A LINE OF AT LEAST FIFTEEN TRUCKS AND OTHER MILITARY VEHICLES (NO TANKS) AND A LINE OF HELMETED ZOMO POLICE. AS THE CROWD NEARED THE POLICE, THE POLICE CHARGED. THE AMERICAN GIRL AND HER BOYFRIEND FLED AND WERE GIVEN REFUGE IN AN APARTMENT OVERLOOKING THE SCENE. SHE OBSERVED AT LEAST TEN TEAR GAS CANISTERS FIRED AT THE DEMONSTRATORS. A MOTORIZED WATER CANNON

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SPEWED INDISCRIMINATELY AT THE DEMONSTRATORS, SOMETIMES EVEN KNOCKING OVER ITS OWN ZOMO WHO WERE BEATING AND ARRESTING PEOPLE. THE PEOPLE WHO WERE BEATEN AND THROWN INTO POLIC WAGONS INCLUDED ONE EXTREMELY ELDERLY GRAY-HAIRED MAN WHO HAD YELLED "GESTAPO, GESTAPO, AT THE ZOMO. MOTHERS WITH CHILDREN AND PUSHING BABY CARRIAGES WERE ACCOSTED OR SPRAYED WITH WATER EVEN ON THE FRINGES OF THE SCENE. THE CONFRONTATION ENDED AROUND 1230. WHEN THE COUPLE ATTEMPTED TO DEPART FROM A TRAMSTOP NEAR THE PLAC THEY OBSERVED ZOMO UNITS DEMANDING THAT PEOPLE NOT FORM CROWDS, TO DISPERSE AND LEAVE THE AREA. IN SOME INSTANCES, THE ZOMO STEPPED INTO CROWDS TO PHYSICALLY SPEARATE PEOPLE. THE AMERICAN GIRL AND BOYFRINED LEFT NOWA HUTA BY TRAM AT 1400 HOURS.
BASTIANI

END OF MESSAGE

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